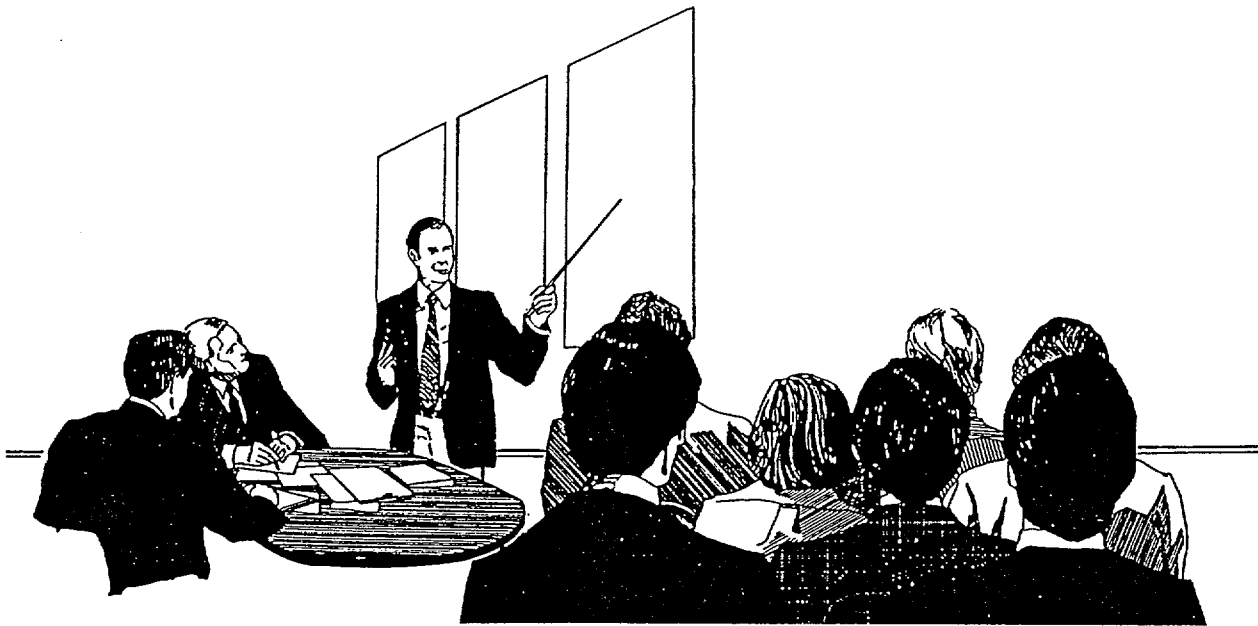




## INTRODUCTION

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The Cottonwood Municipal Airport Master Plan update is being financed as a cooperative effort between the City of Cottonwood and the Arizona Department of Transportation, Aeronautics Division (ADOT). The master plan is a comprehensive analysis of airport needs and alternatives with the purpose of providing direction for the future development of this facility.

The Master Plan for Cottonwood Municipal Airport must address the specific needs of the airport, evaluate its role within the regional airport system, and recommend future development projects. The City of Cottonwood recognizes the importance of aviation in community planning and the associated challenges inherent in providing for future aviation needs. With a sound and realistic Master Plan, Cottonwood Municipal Airport will continue its role as both an economic asset and a source of pride to the residents of the community.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) currently defines three broad categories of aviation activity: general aviation, air carrier, and military. The National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS) identifies Cottonwood Municipal Airport as serving general aviation needs. General aviation includes every type of civil flying other than certificated air carriers. General aviation flying or usage falls into four major categories:

- ◆ **Business** - The use of an aircraft for executive or business transportation. This category consists of aircraft used by an organization and operated by professional pilots to transport its employees and property (not for compensation or hire), and aircraft used by an individual for transportation required for his or her business.
- ◆ **Commercial** - The use of an aircraft for commercial purposes (other than the

commuter and air carrier), including: air taxi, aerial application, special industrial usage, aerial surveys, advertising, aerial photography, and emergency medical transportation.

- ◆ **Instructional** - The use of an aircraft for flight training under the supervision of an instructor.
- ◆ **Personal** - The use of an aircraft for a variety of personal reasons.

General aviation is the largest and the most significant element of the national air transportation system. General aviation aircraft constitute 98 percent of all aircraft in use today. Certificated airlines serve fewer than 700 airports in the country, while there are over 16,000 general aviation airports in the country. It is no coincidence that general aviation has contributed to the socioeconomic phenomenon that has seen American industry move away from the larger metropolitan areas to smaller communities. Smaller communities can offer materials and natural resources, and a superior working environment. General aviation provides the time saving link for corporate travel that has made the shift to smaller communities feasible and extremely attractive.

## OBJECTIVES

Because the airport belongs to the public and is intended to serve the entire community, a comprehensive analysis of the airport and the surrounding area will be made. To accomplish the objectives of this study, the Master Plan will involve the following:

- ◆ **Inventory of Existing Conditions** - Assemble and organize relevant information and data on Cottonwood Municipal Airport and the surrounding area.
- ◆ **Forecast** - Develop detailed projections of future air traffic, by quantity and type.
- ◆ **Capacity/Delay Analysis** - Determine current and future demands upon the existing airfield facilities and estimate the level and extent of aircraft delay that will result if projected demands are realized.
- ◆ **Facility Requirements** - Identify the facility requirements needed to meet projected demands for the airport for existing, short, intermediate, and long term time frames.
- ◆ **Airport Alternatives** - Produce concepts of the various alternatives for airport development.
- ◆ **Airport Layout Plan** - Refine the recommended airport development concept into the airport's plan for development.
- ◆ **Financial Plan** - Prepare a capital improvement program to assist in the implementation of the recommended development plan. Establish development priorities, schedule proposed development items, and estimate development costs.

One of the most important elements of the planning process is the direct involvement of those parties who could potentially be most affected by the results of the study.

This is accomplished through the use of a Planning Advisory Committee, which reviews the work of the study team. In addition, public information meetings are held at strategic points during the course of the study. With the assistance of local

input, the Master Plan for Cottonwood Municipal Airport will reflect the necessary future development needed to meet the growing aviation demands of both the community and the region.